

applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building;

scraping the resulting composition with a rough trowel to remove only an exterior skin from the resulting composition and to leave a smooth and even surface; and

allowing the resulting composition to harden, after the step of applying the resulting composition and before the step of scraping the resulting composition, for a time sufficient: (a) to prevent reformation of the resulting composition; (b) to prevent uneven scraping of the resulting composition by the rough trowel; and (c) to prevent any of the resulting composition from sticking to the rough trowel.

#### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-20, 24 and 25 have been cancelled. Claims 21-23 and 26 are pending.

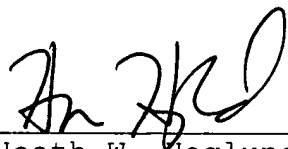
The Examiner previously indicated that claim 25, which depends from claim 21, recited patentable subject matter. It was objected to only because of its dependent form. Accordingly, claim 21 has been amended to include the elements of claim 25, and now stands in condition for allowance. It is respectfully

submitted that this amendment to claim 21 is supported by the specification, claims, abstract and the drawings as originally filed and that no new matter has been added. Moreover, since claims 22 and 23 depend from an allowable claim, it is further and respectfully submitted that these claims also stand in condition for allowance.

Since the above amendment and cancellation of claims overcomes all objections and rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application now stands in condition for allowance. The Examiner's further consideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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